

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) In a computing environment, a method comprising:
providing a selected manifest chosen from among a plurality of manifests based upon a detected type of computer-related problem, the selected manifest identifying a set of at least one tool that when executed collects data for analysis with respect to diagnosing the computer-related problem;
providing a control mechanism to interpret the selected manifest, the control mechanism automatically executing each tool identified in the set to collect the data from a machine; and
receiving the data collected from the machine.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the selected manifest comprises providing a mechanism that when clicked on links to the selected manifest.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein providing the mechanism comprises providing a URL that when clicked on links to the selected manifest.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the selected manifest comprises sending information about the selected manifest in an email message.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the selected manifest comprises sending information about the selected manifest in an instant message.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the selected manifest comprises providing a site that may be accessed via a browser.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein for each tool, the control mechanism determines whether that tool needs to be downloaded and installed to the machine, and if so, the control mechanism further downloading and installing that tool.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, running a reporting program to collect the data and package the data for transmission.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the control mechanism comprises transmitting the control mechanism to the machine.

10. (Previously Presented) A tangible computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions which when executed perform steps, comprising:

providing a selected manifest chosen from among a plurality of manifests based upon a detected type of computer-related problem, the selected manifest identifying a set of at least one tool that when executed collects data for analysis with respect to diagnosing the computer-related problem;

providing a control mechanism to interpret the selected manifest, the control mechanism automatically executing each tool identified in the set to collect the data from a machine; and receiving the data collected from the machine.

11. (Previously Presented) In a computing environment, a system comprising:
a set of available tools, the tools configured to collect data from a machine with respect to diagnosing computer-related problems;
a reporting mechanism that provides access to data collected from the machine; and
a control mechanism that is communicated to or is otherwise operable on the machine, the control mechanism configured to execute a subset of the tools to collect data, in which the subset of tools was selected based on a particular type of detected computer-related problem, and the control mechanism further configured to operate the reporting mechanism to allow analysis of the collected data.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the set of available tools is maintained in a program store associated with a software support entity.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the control mechanism executes the subset of tools by interpreting a manifest that identifies the subset of tools and was selected based upon the particular type of computer-related problem.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the manifest comprises a data file accessed via a URL.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13 further comprising a mechanism that selects the manifest from among a set of manifests, the selection based on received user data.

16. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the control mechanism is communicated to the machine in response to accessing the URL.

17. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the control mechanism downloads to the machine at least one of the tools in the subset.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the control mechanism installs at least one of the tools in the subset on the machine.

19. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the control mechanism compares a version of an existing tool on the machine with a version of a tool in the subset.

20. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein the control mechanism operates in response to a received user request.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the control mechanism executes at least one of the tools in the subset that was already installed on the machine prior to receiving the user request.

22. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising, before providing the selected manifest, receiving a form comprising information directed toward narrowing the computer-related problem.